

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-33 without prejudice.

5

Please insert the following new claims.

34. A gelatin composition comprising 83 to 93% by weight of fish gelatin, 7 to 17% by weight of water and 0.01 to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid setting system containing at least one of the following, natural seaweeds, natural seed gums, natural plant exudates, natural fruit extracts, bio-synthetic gums, bio-synthetic processed starch, cellulosic materials and polysaccharides.

35. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein the hydrocolloid setting system further comprises at least one cation, at least one sequestering agent or combinations thereof.

10

36. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein said hydrocolloid setting system is present in an amount of 0.05 to 5% by weight.

15

37. The gelatin composition according to claim 35, wherein said at least one cation is present in an amount of less than 5% by weight.

38. The gelatin composition according to claim 37, wherein said at least one cation is present in an amount of 0.01 to 3% by weight.

20

39. The gelatin composition according to claim 35, wherein the at least one sequestering agent is present in an amount of less than 5% by weight.

40. The gelatin composition according to claim 39, wherein said at least one sequestering agent is present in an amount of 0.01 to 3% by weight.

41. The gelatin composition according to claim 34 wherein the hydrocolloid setting system contains polysaccharides.

42. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein the hydrocolloid setting system contains at least one of the following, alginates, agar gum, guar gum, locust bean gum, carrageenan, tara gum, gum arabic, ghatti gum, Khaya grandifolia gum, tragaeanth gum, karaya gum, pectin, arabian, xanthan, gellan gum, starch, Konjac mannan, galactomannan, and funoran.

10 43. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein the hydrocolloid setting system contains exocellular polysaccharides.

15 44. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein the hydrocolloid setting system contains at least one of the following, xanthan, acetan, gellan gum, welan, rhamsan, furcelleran, succinoglycan, scleroglycan, schizophyllan, tamarind gum, curdlan, pullulan, and dextran.

20 45. The gelatin composition according to claim 34, wherein the hydrocolloid setting system contains gellan gum, kappa-carrageenan or mixtures thereof.

46. The gelatin composition according to claim 35, wherein the at least one sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, acetic acid, boric acid, citric acid, edetic acid,

gluconic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, tartaric acid or salts thereof, methaphosphates, dihydroxyethylglycine, lecithin, beta cyclodextrin, and combinations thereof.

5 47. The gelatin composition according to claim 46, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetraacetic acid, citric acid, salts thereof and combinations thereof.

10 48. The gelatin composition according to claims 34 further comprising up to about 40% by weight of at least one plasticizer based upon the weight of the gelatin.

15 49. The gelatin composition according to claim 48 wherein the at least one plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, glycerol, sorbitol, sucrose, corn syrup, fructose, dioctyl-sodium sulfosuccinate, triethyl citrate, tributyl citrate, 1, 2-propyleneglycol, mono-, di- or triacetates of glycerol, natural gums, and combinations thereof.

*A^b
cont'*

20 50. The gelatin composition according to claim 34 further comprising at least one coloring agent in an amount up to about 10% by weight based upon the weight of the gelatin.

51. The gelatin composition according to claim 50 wherein the at least one coloring agent is selected from azo-, quinophthalone-, triphenylmethane-, xanthene-

or indigoid dyes, iron oxides, iron hydroxides, titanium dioxide, natural dyes, and combinations thereof.

52. The gelatin composition according to claim 50 when the at least one coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of patent blue V, acid brilliant green BS, red 2G, azorubine, ponceau 4R, amaranth, D+C red 33, D+C red 22, D+C red 26, FD+C red 40, FD+C blue 1, FD+C blue 2, FD+C green 3, brilliant black BN, and combinations thereof.

10 *Ans. cont.* 53. The gelatin composition according to claim 50 wherein the at least one coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, iron oxide black, iron anthocyanines, turmeric, cochineal extract, chlorophyllin, canthanxanthin, caramel, betanin, and combinations thereof.

15 54. A container for housing a unit dosage form of an active agent comprising the gelatin composition of claim 34.

20 55. The container according to claim 54 wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of agrochemicals, seeds, herbs, foodstuffs, dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, and flavoring agents.

56. The container according to claim 55, wherein the active agent is a pharmaceutical agent.

57. The container according to claim 54 further comprising a coating.
58. The container according to claim 57, wherein the coating is made of at least one material selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, methacrylic acid gelatins, hypromellose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, hydroxyalkylmethyl cellulose phthalates and mixtures thereof.
59. The container according to claim 54 in the form of a caplet.
- 10
A 5
60. The container according to claim 54, comprising capsule portions sealed together with at least one layer of the gelatin composition.
- 15
61. The container according to claim 60, wherein the capsule portions are sealed together by a liquid fusion process.
- 20
62. A method of forming gelatin capsules comprising dipping a capsule forming mold into an aqueous gelatin solution containing fish gelatin in an amount of 10 to 60% by weight and a hydrocolloid setting system in an amount of 0.01 to 5% by weight.